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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-20 are rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 8, and claims 5, 6 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 3 12 and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 5, claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 6, claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 16, and claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 15. Claims 4, 8 and 20 have been cancelled.

Claims 5, 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Derocher et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,304,249. Claims 8, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Derocher in view of Krishan. These rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons that follow.

Claim 5 recites a collapsible housing including a rigid base and an upper portion attached to the base. The upper portion is made of an elastic material that allows the housing to be collapsed. Derocher does not appear to disclose elastic material that allows the housing to be collapsed. It appears that only the upper surface of the housing 64 is formed of a flexible, rubber-like material for the express purpose of "allowing the housing to flex along its length." See col. 6, lines 32-33. According to col. 6, lines 39+, a lever 66 and pivots allow Derocher's housing to collapse. Because Derocher does not teach or suggest elastic material that allows a mouse housing to be collapsed, claim 5 and its dependent claims 2, 3, 12 and 13 should be allowed over Derocher.

Claim 6 recites a computer mouse including a collapsible housing. The collapsible housing includes a resilient plastic sheet having fold lines that allow

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the housing to collapse into a relatively flat structure. Such a housing is not taught or suggested by Derocher. Figures 4-6, 11-13 and 18, and the passages at col. 6, lines 17-52 and col. 7, lines 44-67 of Derocher do not teach or suggest the use of plastic material with fold lines. Figures 4-6 of Derocher show a slidable housing. Figs. 11-13 and 18 of Derocher show hinges for collapsing the housing. There is no teaching of fold lines allowing the housing to be collapsed. Therefore, claim 6 and its dependent claims 7 and 14 should be allowed over Derocher.

Claim 15 recites a computer mouse comprising a motion sensor including a sensor chip; and a collapsible housing for the motion sensor. The sensor chip is movable between a stowed position and a deployed position. Claim 19 has been amended to recite that the motion sensor also includes a lens, and that the sensor chip is moved relative to the lens when the housing is collapsed. These features are not disclosed at column 4, lines 40-67 or column 10, lines 11-12 of Derocher (Derocher merely states that the mouse may use an optical sensor). Therefore, claim 15 and its dependent claim 19 should be allowed over Derocher.

Claim 1, which now recites the subject matter of claim 8, and claim 16 are rejected are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Derocher in view of Krishan. While Krishan suggests a mouse and PCMCIA card, there is no suggestion in either Derocher or Krishan of the relationship of having the mouse collapsibly fit within a PCMCIA slot. Therefore, the '103 rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 9-11 should be withdrawn. In addition, the '103 rejection of claim 16 and its dependent claims 17-18 should be withdrawn.

A petition for a ONE month extension of time is attached. The petition extends the shortened statutory period for response from August 9, 2002 to

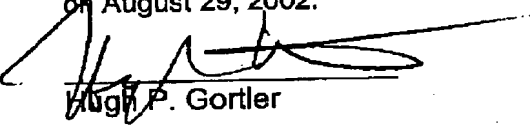
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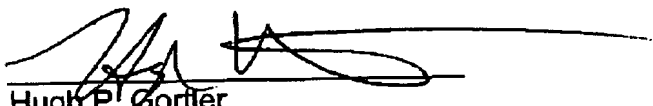
September 9, 2002. The attached transmittal letter provides authorization to charge the petition fee to assignee's deposit account.

The examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and issue a notice of allowability. If issues remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss those remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 29, 2002.


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The base 106a may be made of a hard, relatively rigid plastic. An outer surface 106c of the base 106a may be coated with a material that allows sliding along a slidable surface (e.g., a mouse pad, a desk top). For example, the outer surface 106e of the base 106a may be covered with "TEFLON" tape.

A pair of soft strips 215 and 216 are cantilevered from the upper housing portion 208. These strips 215, 216 function as buttons. A small sensor (not shown) is provided for each button. Each sensor may detect the amount of bend in its corresponding strip 215, 216. An output of each sensor is supplied to the processor of the sensor chip. The amount of bend indicates whether a button has been actuated.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. A computer mouse comprising:
a motion sensor; and
a collapsible housing for the motion sensor, the mouse sized to fit within a PCMCIA slot when the housing is fully collapsed.
2. The mouse of claim 45, wherein the housing is collapsible into a relatively flat structure.
3. The mouse of claim 45, wherein the motion sensor includes an optical sensor.
5. ~~The mouse of claim 4, wherein the collapsible material is~~ A computer mouse comprising:

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a motion sensor; and
a collapsible housing for the motion sensor, the collapsible housing
including a rigid base and an upper portion attached to the base, the upper
portion made of an elastic material that allows the housing to be collapsed.

6. ~~The mouse of claim 1, wherein~~ A computer mouse comprising:
a motion sensor; and
a collapsible housing for the motion sensor, the collapsible housing
including ~~a resilient sheet-plastic sheet~~ having fold lines that allow the housing
to collapse into a relatively flat structure.

12. The mouse of claim 45, wherein the housing has a deflectable mouse
button area; and wherein the mouse further comprises at least one sensor
for detecting when the area is deflected; whereby deflecting the area
corresponds to clicking a mouse button.

13. The mouse of claim 45, further comprising a sensor within the
housing, the sensor detecting housing volume changes that correspond to
mouse clicks.

14. The mouse of claim 46, further comprising a bendable strip
cantilevered from the housing; and a sensor for detecting when the strip is
bent; whereby bending the strip corresponds to clicking a mouse button.

15. ~~The mouse of claim 1, wherein the motion sensor includes~~ A
computer mouse comprising
a motion sensor including a sensor chip; and
a collapsible housing for the motion sensor;
~~a the sensor chip that is~~ movable between a stowed position and a
deployed position.

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18. The combination of claim 16, further comprising a portable computer having first and second PCMCIA slots, the mouse sized to fit in one of the PCMCIA slots. A housing for a computer mouse, the housing comprising:
~~a base; and~~
~~a collapsible upper portion secured to the base~~

19. The mouse housing of claim 158, wherein the motion sensor also includes a lens, and wherein the sensor chip is moved relative to the lens when the housing is collapsed the base is rigid and the collapsible upper portion is made of an elastic material.